



Media Advisory

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ARMY TAKES FIRST STEP TOWARD IMPLEMENTING AREA PROCESSING CENTERS

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FORT HUACHUCA, Ariz. (NETCOM/9th ASC) – The first implementation of area server consolidation (the precursor to Area Processing Centers) is operational following a successful implementation of the Radio Frequency In-Transit Visibility (RF-ITV) system at a facility in Oklahoma City, Okla.

“The RF-ITV system is a web-based solution that provides last-known location for military shipments (cargo, supplies, and unit movement) that have active Radio Frequency tags attached to pallets, containers, or equipment,” said Amy Harding, director, Integration & Plans Directorate, NETCOM Enterprise Systems Technology Agency. The process to migrate RF-ITV began Oct. 15, 2004, and the system became fully operational Sept. 7, 2005.

This first implementation is part of an overall program to implement up to 14 APCs at various locations around the world with the Defense Information Security Agency as the facility operator for each APC. “The Army is building APCs to centralize IT services and respond more quickly to the changing global mission,” said Bob Ringdahl, director, Office of Strategic Concepts and Integration, NETCOM ESTA. “APCs will also allow the Army to better manage the cost of implementing IT technology and rate of technical refresh, to improve the quality of operator training, and to reduce the total cost of ownership.”

Once complete, APCs will provide improved ability to support deployment operations throughout all phases of Warfighter operations – from mobilization through fight on entry to stabilization operations and return home, Ringdahl said. APCs will provide better performance through streamlining of network access, optimization of the cost of providing secure, reliable, and available IT services as well as maximum utilization of the existing communications infrastructure within the Department of Defense environment.

“APCs are not geographically based, and as a result APC services can be delivered to the end-user independent of the end-user’s location or proximity to the APC,” said Harding.

The initial focus of the Army APCs will be on the Windows-based environment, both in terms of application-hosting and supporting enhanced security of the end-user computing platforms. The Army plans to use existing DoD facilities that have the necessary state-of-the-practice physical infrastructure for the APCs. “Some of the key elements of the physical infrastructure are highly available power, communications, heating and cooling, and raised floor space,” said Ringdahl. There is sufficient physical infrastructure within the DoD environment to meet these needs.

The most significant challenge for APCs is changing the way IT services are delivered and resourced, Ringdahl said. “Most resources are still locally focused, mirroring the local processing environment. As APCs are built, the resource strategy for delivery of IT services from a consolidated environment will be developed.”

The RF-ITV system is managed by the Army’s Product Manager, Joint-Automatic Identification Technology (PM J-AIT) which is part of the Army’s Program Executive Office for Enterprise Information Systems (PEO EIS). PEO-EIS oversees developing, acquiring, integrating, deploying and sustaining network-centric, knowledge-based, information technology and business management systems and infrastructure solutions.